

# Purchasing an Encyclopedia

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# Purchasing an Encyclopedia

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Fifth edition

Reviews by  
the Editorial Board of Reference Books Bulletin  
Revised Introduction by Sandy Whiteley

BOOKLIST PUBLICATIONS  
American Library Association  
1996

**Reference Books Bulletin Editorial Board 1995–1996:** Barbara Bibel, Reference Librarian, Oakland, California, Public Library, Chair; Robert Craig Bunch; Jerry Carbone; Ronald J. Chepesiuk; Bryna Coonin; Barbara L. Flynn; Naomi Galbreath; Rochelle Glantz; Carol Sue Harless; Dona Helmer; Sarah Sartain Jane; Sue Kamm; Kathleen M. McBroom; William A. McHugh; Elizabeth B. Nibley; Deborah Rollins; Esther Sinofsky; Kathleen Stipek; and Fannette H. Thomas.

**Guest Reviewers:** Skip Auld, Lesley J. Farmer.

### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

American Library Association. Reference Books Bulletin Editorial Board.  
Purchasing an Encyclopedia

Rev. ed. of Purchasing an Encyclopedia / American Library Association, Reference Books Bulletin. 1992.

1. Encyclopedias and dictionaries—Book reviews. I American Library Association. Reference Books Bulletin.

Purchasing an Encyclopedia. II. Title.

AE1.A48 031

ISBN 0-8389-7823-1

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# Introduction

## Why Purchase (or Subscribe to) an Encyclopedia?

Encyclopedias have been essential reference sources in this country for 150 years. After dictionaries, they are probably the most common reference works found in homes, offices, and schools.

Encyclopedias are most frequently used to answer specific questions. What is the population of New Orleans? When was Abraham Lincoln born? When did Boston last win the World Series? How much does a whale weigh? Some sets include how-to-do-it information, for example, instructions on creating an indoor garden or preparing an exhibit for a science project. In addition, encyclopedias provide an introduction to and overview of thousands of topics. Each entry is usually accompanied by a reading list that leads to further information, so encyclopedias are ideal places to start research for a term paper or report. Teachers sometimes discourage students from using encyclopedias because they suspect that they rely too much on them when doing research, but the bibliography at the end of an encyclopedia article serves as a guide to other materials in the library on that topic. Some sets are designed specifically to meet curriculum-related needs of students. Encyclopedias are excellent sources of illustrations. While all sets use photographs and drawings to clarify the text, some encyclopedias particularly stress the visual.

An encyclopedia is also a wonderful tool for the independent learner. A good encyclopedia inevitably encourages browsing. Columnist Bob Greene reminisced in the March 5, 1986, *Chicago Tribune* about his use of an encyclopedia as a child: "On days when there was not much to do, I would sometimes pick out a volume at random, and just go through it until I found a subject that appealed to me. Then I would read up on that subject until the end of the encyclopedia's entry—and then I would go on to another subject. And it wasn't boring. . . . It was as if the world was contained in



those 26 volumes, and any time I felt like it I could jump headlong into that world and come out with something I never knew about before.”

## Is There Any Need for Encyclopedias in an Online World?

The Internet is being promoted as the ultimate source of information, containing the sum of the world’s knowledge, but most information found in print in bookstores and libraries is not yet available online. In addition, at present the Internet is disorganized and some of its information is of dubious value. Librarian Michael Gorman wrote in the September 15, 1995, *Library Journal* that “The net is like a vandalized library. Someone has destroyed the catalog and removed the front matter, indexes, etc. from hundreds of thousands of books and scattered what remains . . . Thousands of additional fragments are added daily by the myriad cranks, sages, and persons with time on their hands who launch their unfiltered messages into cyberspace.” While the Internet is useful for disseminating information that needs to be updated frequently (for example, the World Population Clock, with its second-by-second updating), and for distributing information which it isn’t cost effective to publish in print because the potential readership is so small, some of the “free” information on the Internet exemplifies the old adage that you get what you pay for. *The Global Encyclopedia*, for example, is a volunteer effort to compile an encyclopedia and distribute it free on the Internet. Librarian Jim Rettig writes, “This so-called encyclopedia gives amateurism a bad name. . . It is being compiled without standards or guidelines for article structure, content, or reading level. It makes no apparent effort to check the qualifications and the authority of the volunteer editors.” Another site, *The Free Internet Encyclopedia* (really just an index to other sites) warns in its introduction “. . . you have to decide on the accuracy and appropriateness of any information you may access here. . .” Most of us turn to reference works because we want authoritative information. If we already knew enough about the subject to judge the accuracy

of an article about it, we wouldn’t be looking it up in the first place!

Writers, editors, fact checkers, illustrators, and publishers—the people who contribute to the authority of reference sources—need to be paid for their work. Since at present so much of what is on the Internet can be used for free, most reference works you’ll find there are either 50-year-old editions that are no longer covered by copyright or amateurish works like *The Global Encyclopedia*. Some publishers do offer high-quality reference sources on the Internet for a fee; for example, see the review of *Britannica Online* later in this pamphlet.

## Should I Purchase a Print or an Electronic Encyclopedia?

Purchasing an encyclopedia used to mean just deciding among the various printed sets: choosing something appropriate for the age group that would be using it and something in one’s price range. Today it also means selecting a format: print, CD-ROM, or online.

### Advantages to print encyclopedias

More than one person can use a print encyclopedia at a time (an important feature in classrooms and libraries).

Because computer screens are viewed from a distance, encyclopedia publishers have not been able to make their maps as detailed in electronic form as in print. Maps in print encyclopedias usually have hundreds of place-names on them; CD-ROM encyclopedias, at best, have only dozens.

At home, families may be more likely to look something up if a print encyclopedia is at hand. Many of us don’t keep our computers turned on all the time at home. They may be in bedrooms or other rooms where the noise is annoying. Turning on a computer and having all the software boot up before the CD-ROM can be inserted and a search begun is time-consuming. When our daughter was young, my husband and I kept a print encyclopedia in the dining room. When she asked a question at dinner that we couldn’t



answer (“How does the electoral college work?”), we were able to look it up right then. If we had had to run upstairs and turn on the computer, we would have found some way to avoid answering the question.

### Advantages to electronic (CD-ROM and online) encyclopedias

When working at a computer, the encyclopedia can be consulted without leaving the desk. Users of an electronic version can print out articles or copy them to a word-processing document.

It is possible to search on just about any word in the set. While print encyclopedias have good indexes, they do not index every occurrence of a word. If they did, the index would be almost as big as the encyclopedia. But in an online or CD-ROM format, one can not only read the article on Thomas Jefferson, but also find all the other articles in which he is mentioned (*Declaration of Independence*, *Virginia*, etc.). While users of print encyclopedias often don't follow up on the cross-references within and at the ends of articles, cross-references in most electronic encyclopedias are hyperlinked; just click on the words and you are automatically taken to the related entry.

Some CD-ROM encyclopedias have added video and audio, as well as the color pictures from the print set, so instead of just reading about Mozart, you can hear a sample of his music or, in addition to reading about how the elbow works, you can see it move in an animation. Teachers and librarians report that some reluctant readers are more likely to use a CD-ROM encyclopedia than a print one for this reason.

Some CD-ROM encyclopedias are much less expensive than the print equivalent. These are only a bargain, however, if you already have a computer.

Online encyclopedias can be updated more frequently than once a year, which has been an advantage they have had over CD-ROM and print. Now *Encarta*, *Grolier*, and *Compton's* on CD-ROM have a feature that lets you log on to an online service to find more current information.

## How to Select an Encyclopedia

The most critical factor in selecting an encyclopedia, whether print or electronic, is choosing a title appropriate for the age of the potential users. Often families want to buy a set for an elementary-school child that will take him or her through college, and so they choose one of the sets for older students, hoping the child will “grow into it.” Instead, the child may become discouraged by trying to use a set that is written at too advanced a level, and by the time he or she is able to use a print encyclopedia, some of its contents will be outdated. When buying an encyclopedia for an elementary-school child, it is best to select one written for younger readers. Your child will be more likely to use it and develop the habit of using reference materials. Since young children are not able to go to the public library on their own, parents will especially appreciate having access at home.

Families with older children will also find an encyclopedia a worthwhile purchase. While high school students may be able to go to the library independently, they will be grateful for a set at home when they procrastinate on starting an assignment until the library is closed. Finally, though it is often the presence of children in the home that motivates adults to purchase an encyclopedia, it is a useful resource for adults as well. In addition to helping parents answer children's questions, a good encyclopedia will provide background information for other books adults are reading or television programs they are watching, will help resolve informal debates, and will even help with puzzles and games. Adults who work at home will find an encyclopedia especially useful.

The multivolume general encyclopedias on the market today can be identified as being written for the following age groups (letters in parentheses note if the encyclopedia is also available on CD-ROM [C] or online [O]): (1) for 7- through 14-year-old readers—*The New Book of Knowledge*; (2) for children from about 11 through the teenage years—*Compton's Encyclopedia* (C, O), *New Standard Encyclopedia*, and *The World Book Encyclopedia* (C) (the latter two with some articles or parts of articles written at the adult level); (3) relatively



smaller sets appropriate both for teenagers and adults—*Academic American Encyclopedia* (C, O) and *Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia* (C, O as *Encarta*); and (4) large, comprehensive sets for high school and college students and adults—*Collier's Encyclopedia* (C), *Encyclopedia Americana* (C), and *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica* (C, O).

Encyclopedias for young people have material that is useful for adults as well. In some cases, articles in a children's set may be a better introduction to a very complicated topic for adults than those in the comprehensive encyclopedias. For instance, an adult with no science background may find the explanations of black holes or supernovas in a children's encyclopedia easier to understand.

## 12 Points to Consider before Purchase

After narrowing down the field based on the appropriateness of the encyclopedias for the intended age group, there are 12 criteria that can be used in evaluating an encyclopedia. Each characteristic is briefly explained below. Visit your local public or school library and compare encyclopedias, looking up topics you have some knowledge of to assess the relative strengths of sets. Some retailers will have workstations where you can test a CD-ROM encyclopedia, and your school or public library may also have CD-ROM encyclopedias you can try. To test an online encyclopedia, request a free trial.

**Authority.** Encyclopedias differ in the extent to which they use outside experts to draft articles. Most articles in *New Standard Encyclopedia* are written by staff and reviewed by outside experts. Many sets have long articles written by outside authors and shorter ones written by editorial staff, while *World Book* has authors' signatures at the ends of even the briefest articles. The credentials of contributors are listed in either the first or the last volume of a print encyclopedia; they sometimes are noted online and on CD-ROM as well. An examination of the lists of contributors to all these sets shows that some of them are dead or long retired. While many distinguished experts contribute articles to encyclopedias, the editors determine what information to include as well as the format in which it will appear. Editors also do much of the updating of articles on a year-to-year basis.

**Arrangement.** All the print encyclopedias reviewed here are arranged alphabetically, either word by word or letter by letter. (For example, a word-by-word arrangement is *ice cream, ice hockey, iceboating, Iceland*. A letter-by-letter arrangement is *iceboating, ice cream, ice hockey, Iceland*.) A word-by-word arrangement is easier for children to use. Also, it is helpful for younger readers if the alphabet is divided so that all of one letter (or a combination of letters like *WXYZ*) is in one volume. This, of course, is irrelevant in electronic encyclopedias, where the arrangement is transparent.

To assist in finding related information, print encyclopedias have indexes, cross-references, and tables of contents or boxed summaries at the beginnings of long articles. A detailed index is particularly helpful in drawing together information that may be scattered throughout the set. Artists, for example, may have articles of their own but may also be discussed in broader articles on painting or sculpture. To test an encyclopedia's indexing and cross-referencing system, pick four or five topics and see how the various keys lead to related information. To compare ease of use, the same topics should be looked up in similar encyclopedias. Again, this isn't relevant to electronic encyclopedias, which index almost every word. Some electronic encyclopedias also have tables of contents for long articles and cross-references are usually hotlinked, so the reader can jump to the related article by simply pressing a key.

**Subject coverage.** To determine if subject coverage is appropriate for your needs, consider the type and range of topics included in the encyclopedia and the relative space allotted to various subjects. Are "hot" topics and contemporary issues covered or only those items that have been proven by the passage of time to be a permanent part of our cultural heritage? Does the allocation of space to various subjects meet your requirements? Are you interested in such practical topics as careers or nutrition, or more scholarly subjects? Encyclopedias for children will, of course, devote more attention to such topics as pets, hobbies, and sports.

**Accuracy and objectivity.** Readers often take for granted that information in an encyclopedia is accurate, but outdated statistics and erroneous dates can be found. Generally editors take special care



to make articles as accurate as possible, and all copy goes through a lengthy checking procedure. Before investing in an encyclopedia, inspect topics with which you are familiar. If information is not correct, it is probably because the article needs updating (see *Recency* below).

Space limitations in encyclopedias make a lengthy presentation of all points of view on controversial topics impossible. We depend on the editorial judgment of encyclopedia editors to present a balanced picture. Examine articles on such topics as abortion or the Middle East to see to what extent opposing viewpoints are given balanced consideration. Encyclopedias are written to sell to the widest possible audience, and therefore most articles represent mainstream thinking. If you are looking for articles that propound unorthodox views on health, for instance, you will not find them in these encyclopedias.

*Recency.* There are facts that do not “date.” Much of the information on the humanities—art, music, philosophy—does not change dramatically over time. However, population statistics, election results, scientific breakthroughs, and sports records are among the many topics on which out-of-date information is misleading. The fact that the encyclopedias reviewed here all undergo an annual revision does not mean that *all* facts are updated. Encyclopedia editors have budgets that limit the number of pages they are able to update in any one revision, with most sets making changes on about 10 percent of their pages per year. Electronic encyclopedias are not limited by a page budget, so they may have more updating than their print equivalents. Before investing in an encyclopedia, check the recency of information on topics with which you are familiar.

*Approach.* Encyclopedias differ in the degree to which they present information on specific topics or subsume material on related topics into broad articles. *Encyclopedia Americana*, for instance, tends to have articles on specific subjects. *Collier's*, on the other hand, has fewer, longer articles on broader topics. *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica* uses both approaches, with long articles on broad topics in the *Macropaedia* and shorter articles on narrower topics in the *Micropaedia*. None of these procedures is necessarily better than the others; each appeals to some individuals. Again, in an electronic encyclopedia,

differences in approach are not as apparent since the computer will take you to the specific topic, whether it is an independent entry or part of one on a broader topic.

*Style.* Even though the subject matter of an encyclopedia is largely factual, it should be a pleasure to read. The language should be appropriate to the subject and to the intended audience. Some publishers of encyclopedias for children use controlled vocabularies or test the reading level of articles using readability formulas in order to guarantee that children will be able to understand them. In sets for all age levels, technical and advanced terms should be defined when they first appear. Difficult topics should be introduced gradually and with sufficient explanation. Read an article on a technical topic and see if it is accessible to you.

*Bibliographies.* Most encyclopedias include lists of suggested readings as guides to further research. Books that are grouped on the basis of difficulty are particularly useful in sets used by children. The works listed should be current. Bibliographies are most useful when they appear at the ends of articles instead of being segregated in a separate volume.

*Illustrations.* Drawings, maps, photographs, diagrams, and other graphics make encyclopedias appealing to readers, but they are an instructional component as well. Pictures should be clear, informative, and attractive and placed adjacent to the articles they illustrate, with captions complete enough to avoid confusion. The use of color enhances the appearance of an encyclopedia, and encyclopedia publishers are increasingly using more color. Some sets are printed entirely on four-color presses, so that color can appear on any page. Other publishers still print only selected sections on a four-color press, which means the decision of where to use color is partially determined by where the article appears in the set rather than its subject. Since children are more dependent on pictures for meaning than adults, pay special attention to illustrations when selecting a set for them.

Illustrations are now included in many electronic encyclopedias, too. Viewing illustrations in an online encyclopedia can be very time-consuming if you don't have a high-speed modem.

*Multimedia.* Some CD-ROM encyclopedias also include audio and



video segments. Make sure your computer can support these elements. For example, IBM-compatible computers don't automatically come with a sound card and speakers. Examine the quality of multimedia elements. Pieces of music written for an orchestra should be played by an orchestra, not by a synthesizer that provides only the melody. Is video used for educational purposes or does it just provide "edutainment"? While multimedia done well can contribute to the learning process, if you are buying a computer for schoolwork or research, don't be carried away by the glitz of multimedia.

*Physical format.* Some print encyclopedias have several bindings available at different prices. For home use, the most inexpensive binding should be suitable. Test a volume to see whether it lies flat when opened. The centers of double-page maps and illustrations should not disappear into the binding. Encyclopedias for young children are sometimes set in a large typeface that is easier to read.

*Yearbooks and other special products.* Some encyclopedias have extra features sold as part of a package, such as reference services or separate atlases and dictionaries, that are intended to lure hesitant buyers. Don't let the presence of these features distract you from assessing the encyclopedia's quality.

All encyclopedia publishers issue a yearbook (except for *New Standard*, which publishes a quarterly supplement). Most yearbooks, while useful sources of current information, are not related to the parent set in arrangement. When purchasing an encyclopedia, you may be asked to subscribe to the yearbook. Do not feel compelled to make a decision on the spot; you can always subscribe later. Some CD-ROM encyclopedias are updated online, taking the place of a yearbook.

## How Do I Purchase (or Subscribe to) an Encyclopedia?

### Buying a print encyclopedia

Having a salesperson visit your home is still the way that *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, *Collier's*, *New Standard Encyclopedia*, and *World*

*Book* are sold. If you are interested in buying one of these sets, look in the yellow pages under *Encyclopedias* for the name of a local sales office. If there are no listings, call these customer service numbers (or, in the case of *Britannica* and *World Book*, visit their home pages on the Internet and request information):

*Encyclopaedia Britannica: New Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 800-323-1229. Internet URL: <http://www.eb.com>

P. F. Collier: *Collier's Encyclopedia*, 800-257-9500.

Standard Educational Corp.: *New Standard Encyclopedia*, 312-346-7740. *World Book Encyclopedia*, 800-621-8202. Internet URL: <http://www.worldbook.com>

Remember that when you place an order for an encyclopedia in your home, the Federal Trade Commission guarantees a three-day cooling-off period during which you can cancel the purchase.

Compton's and Grolier encyclopedias can be purchased over the phone. Call the following numbers:

*Compton's Encyclopedia*: 800-858-4895.

Grolier— *Academic American Encyclopedia*, *Encyclopedia Americana*, *New Book of Knowledge*: 800-243-7256.

Other encyclopedias can be bought in supermarkets on the book-a-week plan. *Funk & Wagnalls* has long been sold this way, but the *Grolier Encyclopedia of Knowledge* (a version of the *Academic American Encyclopedia*) is now available in grocery stores, too.

Buying a used encyclopedia is another option for families. Unfortunately, the encyclopedias usually found at garage/yard sales are too old to be of much use. Libraries tend to replace their encyclopedias at least every five years. If you are considering a used set, avoid one that is older than five years, especially if it is to be used by children.

### Buying a CD-ROM encyclopedia

*Compton's*, *Grolier*, and *Encarta* are sold in retail stores.

Grolier's *Encyclopedia Americana* is sold over the phone or through educational mail-order houses.

*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, *Collier's*, and *World Book* are sold in the



home by the same salespeople who sell the print encyclopedia. Use the toll-free numbers listed above or visit their Web sites.

### Subscribing to an online encyclopedia

Subscribers to America Online, CompuServe, Delphi, GEnie, and Prodigy get access to an online encyclopedia at no extra cost. Most of these services will give you a free trial period. Obviously, selecting an online service involves more than just choosing an encyclopedia. You will want to see what other features of the service appeal to you. Call the following numbers for more information:

America Online: 800-827-6364.

CompuServe: 800-368-3343.

Delphi: 800-695-4005.

GEnie: 800-638-9636.

Prodigy: 800-776-3449.

*Britannica Online* is available by subscription on the World Wide Web on the Internet. The URL for the Britannica demo page is <http://www.eb.com>. A free trial period is available.

### Bibliography

Readers wanting information on other encyclopedias (one volume, foreign, out of print) should consult the following books, which may be available in libraries:

*Best Encyclopedias: A Guide to General and Specialized Encyclopedias* by Kenneth F. Kister. 2d. ed. Oryx Press, 1994. \$39.50 (0-89774-7442D5).

In addition to reviewing the standard encyclopedias in print and on CD-ROM, Kister also reviews 42 other sets, some of them out of print and others in one volume. Appendixes give brief comments on specialized subject encyclopedias and foreign-language encyclopedias.

*Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, and Atlases*. Ed. by Marion Sader and Amy Lewis. Bowker, 1995. \$85 (0-8352-3669-2).

Profiles and evaluates more than 200 English-language encyclopedias, world atlases, and general dictionaries for all ages. Most of the sets reviewed date from 1993 or 1994.

## Encyclopedia Update, 1995

This is our twelfth "Encyclopedia Update," reviewing the 1995 editions of eight annually revised encyclopedias. For the second year, we are also reviewing electronic encyclopedias. The reviews of the CD-ROMs follow the encyclopedias on which they are based. Because our reviewers had expressed concern about maps in CD-ROM encyclopedias, we made a special effort to compare them. With the appearance of *Collier's* on CD-ROM in 1996, the only sets not available in this format will be *The New Book of Knowledge* and *New Standard Encyclopedia*.

The new editions of print encyclopedias are issued every year between January and March. The three CD-ROM encyclopedias sold in retail stores—*Compton's*, *Encarta*, and *Grolier*—are all issued in the fall in order to reach the Christmas market. Thus, these three 1996 releases became available in the fall of 1995. They each have a new function that enables users with a modem to log on to an online service for more current information.

The text of CD-ROM encyclopedias doesn't always correlate with that of the print set due to less stringent space restrictions on the CD-ROM and different publication schedules. This year, *Encyclopedia Americana on CD-ROM* has 4,000 new or revised articles that don't appear in the print set.

We are reminded every year of the difficulties of publishing a print encyclopedia. We criticized *Collier's* in 1993 for having a photo of a chain gang without the caption noting that this was a historical picture. This year Alabama decided to bring back chain gangs.

These reviews are reprinted from the September 15, 1995 issue of *Booklist/Reference Books Bulletin*.

**Academic American Encyclopedia.** 21v. Lawrence T. Lorimer, editorial director; K. Anne Ranson, editor in chief. Grolier, 1995.

**HISTORY:** Since its first edition in 1980, *Academic American Encyclopedia AAE* has been an excellent reference source for students from middle-school grades through college, as well as for adults.

**SCOPE AND TREATMENT:** The 1995 edition has more than 29,000



entries and approximately 17,000 illustrations, 75 percent of which are in color. Among the 37 new contributors to this edition are Paul Garfinkel, professor of psychology, University of Toronto (*Anorexia Nervosa, Bulimia*); Ivan Starr, professor of Near East studies, Wayne State University (*Assyria, Assyriology*); and Rein Taagepera, dean of the School of Social Science, Tartu University, Estonia (*Estonia, Latvia*). Bibliographies accompany many articles, although they lack the name of the publisher and sometimes give only initials rather than the authors' first names. Pronunciation for names and other terms likely to be unfamiliar to an English-speaking audience is provided in *AAE*. Copious cross-references in the body of the set as well as in the index provide many points of access.

While the beautiful illustrations in *AAE* will appeal to young readers, text is often written at a higher level. For example, in *Cat*, the author says "Like all felids, domestic cats have senses evolved to facilitate twilight predation. . . . Sense of smell is not greatly elaborated in felids, although there is some evidence that olfactory cues are used in courtship behavior."

QUALITY AND CURRENCY: For this edition, 110 articles on new subjects were added and 58 entries were rewritten. Many of the 110 new articles are biographical, featuring such people as Hillary Rodham Clinton; Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer; Tomiichi Murayama, Japanese prime minister; Franjo Tudjman, president of Croatia; Latin music stars Celia Cruz and Tito Puente; and speed skater Bonnie Blair. Other new articles include *Cellular Telephone*, *Cultural Theory*, and *Internet*. In medicine there is the new entry *Hantavirus* and rewritten articles *Arthritis*, *Immune System*, and *Oncogene*. Other notable replacement entries include *Asian Americans* (formerly *Oriental Americans*) and *Hispanic Americans*. In addition, more than 200 articles received major revision, and another 2,760 had some revision. Two dozen articles about computers were revised, for example.

*AAE* has excellent photographs, reproductions of paintings, drawings, and maps. Among the 196 new photographs are ones showing the inauguration of Nelson Mandela in *South Africa*, a site of the bombardment of *Jupiter* by Comet Shoemaker-Levy, and refugees being intercepted at sea in *Coast Guard*. Detailed drawings

illustrate many technical articles (for example, *Compact Disc*), providing a clear view of how the mechanism works.

As usual in *AAE*, recent events are well covered. The 1994 earthquake that rocked Southern California is mentioned in *Earthquake* as well as in a table of major quakes. (It is not discussed in the article *Los Angeles*, however.) There is a complete list of senators and representatives in the 104th Congress, with photographs of its leadership. The newly revised article *Croatia* includes the 1994 Croatian-Muslim federation. In *Algeria*, the rise of unrest among Islamic radicals is noted. *Baseball* mentions the players' strike, noting that the 1994 World Series was not played. U.S. intervention in Haiti, the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, and Palestinian self-rule are all mentioned. But *Soccer* reads, "The 1994 Cup will be hosted by the United States."

ELECTRONIC VERSIONS: The text is online, updated quarterly, without illustrations, on America Online, GENie, Delphi, Dow Jones News/Retrieval, and CompuServe. It is available on CD-ROM as *The Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*, reviewed below.

CONCLUSION: Current, attractive, and easy to use, *Academic American Encyclopedia* is appropriate for middle-and high-school, public, and academic libraries, as well as for home use.

### **The Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia, 1995.** Grolier, 1994.

HISTORY: This was the first encyclopedia to be issued on CD-ROM (1985); the first multimedia version was released in 1992. There are DOS, Windows, and Macintosh versions. The 1996 version (not seen for this review) has a new interface. It has a direct link to CompuServe for those with a modem; more than 13,000 articles will be linked to related online information. This version also contains a yearbook section.

SCOPE AND TREATMENT: *The Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia (GME)* has 8,000 pictures, 635 maps, 507 sound clips, 59 videos, and 30 animations. Maps are relatively detailed; the map of Alabama had 38 cities noted. This disc does not contain a dictionary.

DATABASE STRUCTURE: Users can search by article title, word, the "Knowledge Tree" (a hierarchical list of articles under six main branches of knowledge), time lines, and graphic elements (pictures,



maps, animations, sounds, and videos). New this year is "Pathmakers," introductions by a famous person to a group of related articles. For example, Kurt Vonnegut introduces literature and Buzz Aldrin, exploration and discovery. A "Quick Start Card" offers simple information on searching and use of the features screen and tool bars. While terms in articles sought using Boolean searching are underlined in article texts, there is no way for the user to jump to them.

*GME* has excellent animations depicting the human body, natural processes, technology, and simple machines. The depiction of how an airplane flies, for example, makes the concept clearer than a set of still illustrations. Another excellent feature is the multimedia maps. Using animation, these maps show the development of transportation, modern wars and conflicts, prehistoric and ancient peoples, and more.

CONCLUSION: *GME* continues to be useful in school libraries, middle school and up. Public and academic librarians will also find it worth considering for purchase, and it is appropriate for home use.

**Collier's Encyclopedia.** 24v. Lauren S. Bahr, editorial director; Bernard Johnston, editor in chief. P. F. Collier, 1995.

HISTORY: *Collier's Encyclopedia*, published since 1950, "is a scholarly, systematic, continuously revised summary of the knowledge that is most significant to mankind." It is published by P.F. Collier, but is sold to schools and libraries by the Macmillan Library Reference sales force. A CD-ROM version will be issued in January 1996.

SCOPE AND TREATMENT: The set contains about 23,000 entries, ranging in length from a few sentences to 40 pages. Its audience is the home and school user, high school and up. About two-fifths of the encyclopedia's pages include illustrations, 42 percent of which are in color, up from 17 percent in 1991. This year marks the fifth year of the editors' project of replacing black-and-white illustrations with color ones. Among the 84 new contributors this year are A. Richard Turner, art history professor at New York University and author of *Inventing Leonardo* (*Leonardo Da Vinci*) and Allan Nadler, YIVO Institute of Jewish Research (*Jews of Poland*).

A useful feature in *Collier's* is end-of-article lists, either in the form of a glossary (e.g., specific dances in *Dance*) or biographies of outstanding people (e.g., on Tony Hillerman within *Detective Story*). *Collier's* provides a thematic bibliography listing 11,500 titles in the last volume. There are no references from entries in the set to this bibliography. Several sections were significantly revised, including "Career Guidance" and "Political Science and Government." The 450,000-entry index notes all illustrations, overlays, and maps.

QUALITY AND CURRENCY: This year's changes include 39 new entries, 79 completely rewritten articles, and 1,335 updated or revised articles. New entries include several on individual states of India; *Compulsive Gambling*, *Motion Pictures*, *Art and Psychology of Russian Art*, and *Twelve-Step Program*. Among the 11 new biographies are ones for Hillary Rodham Clinton, black inventor Garrett Morgan, and Salman Rushdie. Among those articles rewritten are several that were criticized here last year: *Audiovisual Instructional Materials*, *Civil Defense*, *Cold War*, and *Television*. Other rewritten articles include *Children's Literature* (which is 12 pages longer), *Interior Design*, and *Penology and Prisons*. *Deafness* now notes TDDs. Among revised entries are many countries, states, and cities. For example, *Cuba* notes the economic difficulties resulting from the breakup of the Soviet Union. Most significant events in 1994 are addressed. *Collier's* does a fine job describing the elections in South Africa and the Mexican conflict, including Zedilla's inauguration in December 1994. Interestingly, the Jordan-Israel peace accord is detailed in the *Israel* article, but *Jordan* dates back to 1988. In recent years, it has been *Collier's* policy to add bibliographies to lengthy new and revised articles, a more useful location than in the last volume of the set. This year, 12 bibliographies were added.

Despite the numerous changes, some articles have outdated information. *Consumerism* is still locked into the 1970s. The statistics in *Automobile* date to 1983. *Banking*, *Commercial* has not been updated since the 1970s. The latest event in *Tibet* dates to 1965.

Among the reillustrated articles this year are *City Planning*, *Military Uniforms*, and *Whale*. The use of coated paper has enhanced the increased use of color in *Collier's*, though some illustrations, such as *The Blue Boy* in the entry on Gainsborough, are blurry.



ELECTRONIC VERSIONS: *Collier's* is due to be released on CD-ROM in January 1996.

CONCLUSION: The clearly written articles in *Collier's* offer more depth than those in many popular encyclopedias. This encyclopedia continues to provide useful information across the disciplines for high-school and college students and adults. Its appearance is less staid than in prior years, and it deserves serious consideration for library collections and homes.

**Compton's Encyclopedia.** 26v. Dale Good, editorial director. Compton's Learning Co., 1995.

HISTORY: Now in its seventy-fourth year of publication, *Compton's* was the first print encyclopedia to include pictures on the same page as the text, and its CD-ROM was the first to incorporate multimedia.

SCOPE AND TREATMENT: This set is primarily directed to families and elementary-and middle-school students. Articles are arranged letter by letter; thus, *Newbery, John* precedes *New Brunswick*. *Compton's* has about 700 advisors and contributors. Long articles are signed. There are 16,300 cross-references in the text and 70,000 index entries in the "Fact-Index," which also includes 29,873 brief articles.

QUALITY AND CURRENCY: The preface states that *Compton's* chooses "not to limit the vocabulary of its articles to restrictive word lists" and thereby "challenges and inspires readers of all ages." The result of this practice is illustrated in *Physics*, which is interesting and clear, with only minor use of formulas in an 8½-page article.

This year seven new main-text articles were added: *Australian Literature*, *Steamboat*, and biographies of Stephen Hawking, Barbara McClintock, Alan Turing, Andrei Tupolov, and Derek Walcott. One hundred main-text articles were rewritten or extensively revised, while 350 more were updated. Rewritten articles include *Baseball* and *South Africa*. *Baseball* doesn't mention the cancellation of the end of the 1994 season. Articles were revised to note the deaths of Richard Nixon and Kim Il Sung. Among the new illustrations are 158 photographs (all but nine of which are four-color) and

10 new drawings, graphs, and charts. Among the articles with attractive new photos are *Australia* and *Japan*. *Bank and Banking* has a new color drawing showing how an ATM works. A photograph of the new Boeing 777 has been added to *Aviation*. About 65 percent of *Compton's* illustrations are in full color. Bibliographies are typically oriented to students. Ten bibliographies were added, and 10 were revised this year.

One of the shortcomings noted in last year's review has been corrected: information on electronic resources has been incorporated into the article *Library*. However, there is still but a brief discussion of the gay rights movement in *Sexuality*, and some articles still have dull illustrations (*Nursery Rhyme*, *Universities and Colleges*, *Literature for Children*). Updating is somewhat irregular (e.g., events in Mexico are covered up to 1991, and in Rwanda, through 1994). *Poverty* appears to date to 1985. The index entry notes Linus Pauling's death in 1994, while his biography in the main text does not. *Directing* mentions parts I and II of Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather* but not part III, which was released in 1990. There is no mention of the Jordan-Israel peace accord.

The "Fact-Index" is heavily revised, probably because the entire index has to be totally reset, and thus this part of the encyclopedia is less expensive to update. It has 551 new articles, 13 new tables, and major revisions to about 30 articles. Among the new entries are *ASCII*, *Breyer*, *Stephen*, *Internet*, and ones for all dog and cat breeds recognized in the U.S. There are scattered, small black-and-white illustrations, along with numerous tables in the "Fact-Index." There is a great deal of information packed in here, but it is awkward to have two places to look. *The New Book of Knowledge* has begun integrating its dictionary entries at the end of each volume into the main text, and *Compton's* would do well to consider doing the same.

ELECTRONIC VERSIONS: *Compton's* is available online with America Online and Prodigy, with new material added weekly and with illustrations, and on CD-ROM (see below).

CONCLUSION: This attractive, inexpensive encyclopedia for students is a good purchase for elementary-and middle-school and public libraries and for home use.



**Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia, 1996.** Compton's, 1995.

**HISTORY:** First released in 1989, *Compton's* was the first CD-ROM encyclopedia to include audio and video. There are Windows, Macintosh, and Pentium versions. It is also available for CD-I and Sega CD. New this year is an icon on the screen that connects users who have a modem to various online services. Subscribers to America Online can access *Compton's Living Encyclopedia* and read more recent articles. AOL software is on the *Compton's* disc.

**SCOPE AND TREATMENT:** The disc contains the full text of the encyclopedia plus *Webster's New World Dictionary* and *Thesaurus*, both published by Simon & Schuster. Clicking on any word in the encyclopedia gets the dictionary entry. There are more than 8,000 pictures, 31 videos and 10 animations, and 15 hours of sound. Music examples are played on a tinny-sounding synthesizer, so, for example, an example of German organ music does not sound like an organ but like something from a music box. *Compton's* comes with a detailed user's guide, and there is a toll-free number for questions.

**DATABASE STRUCTURE:** Three different configurations allow the user to install differing amounts of the program to the hard drive; searching speed is enhanced when more of the program is installed. This 1996 edition uses the same search software as the 1995 version. Patrick Stewart still appears in video, offering a tour and responding to the help command. *Compton's* is the only one of these encyclopedias not to have Boolean search capability. Users can search by a list of article titles or by natural-language questions. A search on big bridges retrieved a table of the world's largest bridges but also articles containing the words *Big Ben* and *Big Boy*. *Compton's* also offers several ways to browse, such as InfoPilot, Explore (with several new environments this year), Timeline, and Topic Tree. Once an article is located, the search terms are highlighted, but the user must scroll through the entry to find them. Longer articles have outlines from which one can jump to a specific place in the entry. Cross-references are all hyperlinked. The Editing Room allows users to create a multimedia show using elements from the CD-ROM. *Compton's* maps are very basic. There

are only three cities on the map of Alabama. Special features include a slide show with audio on recent events. The latest event covered is the Kobe earthquake in January 1995. "This Date in History" provides information on people who were born on the current day and other important events.

**CONCLUSION:** *Compton's* continues to be an attractive, easy-to-use encyclopedia that is especially good for younger users in schools and libraries and at home.

**Encyclopedia Americana.** 30v. Lawrence T. Lorimer, editorial director; Mark Cummings, editor. Grolier, 1995.

**HISTORY:** First issued between 1829 and 1833, *Encyclopedia Americana* was the first general encyclopedia published in the U.S. It was acquired by Grolier in 1945 and has been revised annually since then. This year marks the appearance of the first CD-ROM version.

**SCOPE AND TREATMENT:** *Americana* is intended for secondary-school students and adults. International in scope, its coverage of American and Canadian subjects is particularly strong. There are some 6,500 contributors, and most articles are signed. Among the new contributors are Karen J. Blair of Central Washington University (*Women's Club Movement*) and Adam Weinberg of the Whitney Museum (*Whitney Museum of American Art*). Among the nine new editorial board advisers are Barbara C. Jordan (law) and Joshua Lederberg (microbiology). *Americana's* index has 353,000 entries.

**QUALITY AND CURRENCY:** The 1995 edition has 15 new articles, 23 replacement articles, 45 major revisions, 631 minor editorial revisions, and 384 updated bibliographies. This year marks the completion of a project to update bibliographies that began in 1987. There are 53 new photos (24 in color). New biographical articles include Stephen Breyer and choreographers Peter Martins and Mark Morris. Other new subjects include brief entries for *European Union*, *Israeli-Palestinian Accord*, and *Sotheby's* and six pages each for *Women's Health: Obstetrics and Gynecology* and *Women's Rights*. Among replacement articles are *Apartheid*, *Blindness*, *Leukemia*, *Pop Art*, and *Virus*. Among the articles to which major revi-



sions have been made are *Assassinations*, *Guggenheim Museum*, *Kim Il Sung*, and *Russian Federation*.

Events of international importance through the late summer of 1994 are covered in the entries for South Africa, Rwanda, Malawi, Mexico, Northern Ireland, North Korea, Algeria, Jordan, Israel, and Haiti. Not found were the conviction of Byron De La Beckwith in Medgar Evers' murder, significant events in space exploration after 1992, and the U.S. as host of the World Cup. Deaths are noted in the biographies of Eugene Ionesco, Jacqueline Onassis, Richard Nixon, Linus Pauling, Ralph Ellison, and Tip O'Neill; those of Jan Tinbergen, Cab Calloway, and Karl Popper are not.

Updating remains a concern. The articles on rapidly growing Houston and Texas, with the exception of 1990 population figures and recent bibliographies, appear not to have been revised since the early 1970s. It is of little use to know the value of Houston's foreign trade "at the beginning of the 1970s" or the space center's expenditures "in the late 1960s." *Audiovisual Education* ends in the 1960s, *Television* ends "at the beginning of the 1970s." There is no mention, in the index or elsewhere, of the Internet or virtual reality. *Cuba* has statistics from the 1970s and fails to note the economic chaos of the 1990s resulting from the withdrawal of Russian aid. *Africa: Contemporary Problems* doesn't mention the demise of apartheid in South Africa and a photo caption says, "apartheid is backed by the full coercive powers of the state." *Typewriter* mentions the IBM Memory typewriter as the latest development, failing to acknowledge that word processors have decimated the typewriter industry. *Wesleyan University* is still described as a college for men. Some deficiencies noted in *RBB's* review of the 1994 edition have been corrected, but others remain. Population figures have been updated for 5,000 cities and countries outside of North America, and population figures from the 1991 Canadian census have now been added to the text, but those for Spain and its cities are still from the 1960s and 1970s. German cities are not as frequently identified as "East German" and "West German."

**ELECTRONIC VERSIONS:** A CD-ROM version was issued for the first time in 1995 (see below).

**CONCLUSION:** The Board's 1994 conclusions remain little

changed: *Encyclopedia Americana* is one of the most comprehensive general encyclopedias available, but updating in the print set continues to be spotty and awkward pagination results from added and deleted material. Since there are 4,000 more updated articles in the CD-ROM than in the print set, libraries ought to seriously consider the CD-ROM over the print version.

**Encyclopedia Americana** (CD-ROM version). Grolier, 1995.

**HISTORY:** In this 166th anniversary year of the print set, Grolier has released a CD-ROM version of *Encyclopedia Americana*. Windows, DOS, and Macintosh versions are all on the same disc. Memory restrictions prohibit the DOS version from supporting all features. For example, many special characters and diacritical marks display as roman "equivalents" in the DOS version.

**SCOPE AND TREATMENT:** *Americana* on CD-ROM contains "all mathematical and chemical formulas; musical notation; tables; factboxes; information highlight boxes; glossaries; black-and-white charts, diagrams, and illustrations; and bibliographies found in the print set, as well as additional text and graphic material commissioned and edited exclusively for the electronic edition." Among new contributors whose articles appear in the CD-ROM but not in the 1995 print edition are David Gelernter, Yale University (*Computer Systems and Methodologies*), and Richard C. Lewontin, Harvard University (*Race: Contemporary Views of Human Variation*).

**QUALITY AND CURRENCY:** The CD-ROM contains more than 4,000 new, replacement, and revised articles not in the 1995 print set. The CD-ROM is definitely superior in terms of currency and some searching features, although the more than 20,000 photographs and maps are missed. Among 70 new articles not in the 1995 print version are *Ailey, Alvin*; *Compact Disc*; *Hockney, David*; *Klein, Calvin* (and entries for 14 others in the fashion world); *Material Culture*; *Orthodox Judaism* (and entries for the Conservative, Reformed, and Reconstructionist varieties); and *Speilberg, Steven*. Among the 69 replacement articles not in the print version are multipart composite entries replacing single large articles on anthropology, art, computers and computer science, economics, and the United Nations. Among the 46 articles with "major" revi-



sions are *American Literature: The 20th Century*; *Carnegie Hall*; *Lessing, Doris*; and *Tharp, Twyla*. In addition, 3,975 minor revisions were made only on the CD-ROM. For example, current population estimates are provided for Spain, and East and West were removed from articles on all German cities. But many articles, such as *Sound Recording and Reproduction*, *Typewriter*, and *Audiovisual Education*, still remain woefully out-of-date.

**DATABASE STRUCTURE:** Standard searches can be done in any of nine indexes: article title, full text, synopsis (just the first paragraph of the entry), bibliography (authors, titles, and publishers), contributors to the encyclopedia, user notes, subjects, geography, and article form. The last three indexes have been created by editorial staff and are not dependent on words in entries. As a word is typed in, the scroll list moves to the closest match. The table of contents for longer articles can be consulted for quick access to appropriate sections. Icons and/or a tool bar allow the searcher to move through articles, find words or series of words within articles, link to other articles, view search results, retrace steps, print articles or selected portions, and take notes. Another icon allows one to do a "profiled search" using Boolean operators, wildcards, and case matching; in addition to the other indexes, a date index is available for profiled searches. Minor problems included waits of several minutes when searching certain terms.

A 131-page user's guide accompanying the CD-ROM is divided into separate sections for Windows, Macintosh, and DOS. Installation was simple. Technical support is available through an 800 number.

**CONCLUSION:** *Americana* on CD-ROM is impressive for its variety of search features and the extent of its coverage. It is more current than the 1995 print set, and the realities of publishing economics suggest that this will continue to be the case. Having Windows, DOS, and Macintosh versions on the same disc is convenient. The lack of photographs and maps (not to mention sound and video) may make this less popular with students than the multimedia encyclopedias to which they are accustomed, but libraries that have depended on *Encyclopedia Americana* will want to seriously consider purchasing this CD-ROM version.

### **Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia.**

There was no print 1995 edition of *Funk & Wagnalls*. Reviewed here is a CD-ROM encyclopedia that uses *Funk & Wagnalls* text.

### **Encarta '96.** Microsoft, 1995.

**HISTORY:** *Encarta* was first published in 1993. There are Windows and Macintosh versions. A new feature in the 1996 release, the Yearbook Builder, allows users with a modem to download to their hard drives 30-40 articles each month from the Microsoft Network or the Microsoft Web Page on the Internet. A year's worth of articles will take up about 6MB of hard-drive space. Each update will also include the "Month in Review," a news summary. *Encarta* will also be available online on the Microsoft Network, a function of Windows 95.

**SCOPE AND TREATMENT:** *Encarta's* text is based upon *Funk & Wagnall's New Encyclopedia*, but editors and staff at Microsoft write and revise articles. Of its 26,500 articles, 7,000 have been reviewed for this release, according to Microsoft. Three hundred new articles have been added, among them *World Wide Web*, *Kwanzaa*, and biographies of Scott Momaday and Jean Bertrand Aristide. There is a new entry on Newt Gingrich, with a photo, and the article *Kobe* has been updated to note the earthquake and has a photo. The entries on Bosnia, Serbia, and Croatia have been updated through mid-1995. New multimedia items have been added in all categories, bringing the totals to 8,000 photos and graphics, more than nine hours of sound clips, more than 100 animations and video clips (including one from the 1994 World Cup), and 800 maps in the atlas. A photo of wooden lobster traps is picturesque, but does not reflect the fact that they are rarely used in Maine's fishing industry today. *Encarta* has many unusual audio segments: the call to prayer by a muezzin, a Jewish cantor, and words and phrases in dozens of languages. New "InterActivities" this year include "Famous Paintings" and "Natural Wonders." A dictionary and thesaurus are accessible with a double-click on any word in the text of the article. The "Timeline" piques interest with connections to articles. A "Teacher's Activity Guide" is included with the academic edition.



**DATABASE STRUCTURE:** Encarta has a new main screen, the home screen, which lists all searching options, but generally the interface is the same as last year. The disc can be searched by Find, which includes an index search and Boolean options. A new feature, "Guided Tours," a collection of 80 tours, highlights selected entries. For example, "Metropolises" leads to entries for 20 cities and "Overcoming Adversity" leads to 25 biographies. Some problems were encountered while using *Encarta*. When the time period 1000-1250 A.D. was specified in the Media Gallery, 94 items were retrieved. Some were appropriate (*Leif Ericson*, *Salisbury Cathedral*), but others—*Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture*, *Chamber Music Performance*, and *Olmec Ceremonial Ax* seemed inexplicable; the caption for the ax even specified the dates 700-300 B.C. Word searches in the Gallery (for media elements) and in Find (article titles are searched in Find) for *Maine* retrieved 137 and 1,433 items respectively, apparently including everything with the word *main* or *remained*. Maps have useful features: clickable spots (e.g., to cities) and hyperlinks to "Sights and Sounds," pronunciations, and articles. They are not very detailed; Alabama notes 14 cities.

**CONCLUSION:** *Encarta's* information content is good, and the new home screen makes it easier to find all its features. The encyclopedia is so inviting that students from middle school and up may well spend hours using it.

**The New Book of Knowledge.** 21v. Lawrence T. Lorimer, editorial director; Gerry Gabianelli, editor in chief. Grolier, 1995.

**HISTORY:** Published from 1910 to 1965 as the topically arranged *Book of Knowledge*, this encyclopedia has been alphabetically arranged since 1966.

**SCOPE AND TREATMENT:** Designed for library, classroom, and home use, *NBK's* audience ranges from children in grade two or three through grade seven or eight, or those ready for an adult encyclopedia. Each volume includes its own index on blue pages, and volume 21 is the index to the set. Almost all articles are signed and include the contributor's affiliation. Approximately 40 new contributors have been added this year, including author John Keegan (*Battles*), and scientist James Trefil (*Motion*).

**QUALITY AND CURRENCY:** This year, volumes *A*, *B*, and *N* received the most substantial modification as *NBK* continues its major format revision begun in 1992. These changes certainly present information in a more attractive manner. The juxtaposition of the new "Facts and Figures" box for *Turkmenistan* with the old-style one for *Turks and Caicos Islands* on the opposing page highlights the difference the new design makes. Brief dictionary entries continue to be found in the blue pages before each volume index, but efforts are being made to integrate them into the regular sequence of the set. Dictionary entries are revised, when necessary, but no new entries are being added.

This year saw the addition of 35 new articles, 52 replacements or major revisions and 267 minor revisions. New articles include *Apes*, *Black Holes*, *Civil Rights Movement*, *Computer Graphics*, and *Wetlands*. New biographies treat Benazir Bhutto, Stephen Hawking, and Toni Morrison. Replacement articles include *Africa*, *Art and Architecture of Alabama* (and four other states); *Motion Pictures*, and *Numbers and Number Systems*. *Peking* was updated and renamed *Beijing*. *Volcanoes* benefited not only from revision, but from the addition of color photographs and new maps. More than 700 new illustrations, 600 of them in color, were added this year. More than 90 percent of the set's illustrations are in color.

A check for current events found Aristide's return to Haiti, Palau's independence, U.S. troops returning to Kuwait/Iraq, the Shoemaker-Levy comet hitting Jupiter, and Mandela's ANC victory. *Mexico* addresses the Chiapas revolt, the assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio, and the 1994 U.S. election. Noted also are such major sporting events as the 1994 World Soccer Cup and cancellation of the baseball season.

Given the set's intended audience, it's not surprising to find many events reduced to simple terms. However, this can also result in understatement as in, for example, the discussion of the Serbian-Bosnian conflict and the massacres in Rwanda. Articles needing updating include the one on Margaret Thatcher and *Rock Music* (Blondie and the Police are "oldies"). *NBK* has tended to cover all aspects of a subject in a broad article. For example, *Diseases* includes information about various diseases listed alphabetically.



from *Acne* to *Whooping Cough*. A student researching TB will first choose the *T* volume (where there is a *see* reference). However, as volumes are revised, more specific entries are being added and the general entries shortened accordingly.

The index volume is easy for a child to use, thanks to larger fonts and a vertical listing of entries rather than a paragraph style, which often confuses those just learning reference skills. The "Experiments and Other Science Activities" list in the index will be helpful at science-project time. "Wonder questions," specially boxed sidebars, are indexed with their respective main entries. Two paperbacks are included with the set. *Teaching Basic Reference Skills* is a treasure trove of activity sheets and black-line masters covering encyclopedia skills at various ability levels. The *Home and School Reading and Study Guide* recommends more than 5,000 fiction and nonfiction children's and young adult titles, arranged under subjects corresponding to entries in the encyclopedia.

CONCLUSION: *NBK*'s design, with its large font and clear headings, is well suited to its intended audience. The design changes underway further enhance the set. Recommended for children through middle school, this attractive encyclopedia should also be considered for purchase for learners of English as a second language.

**The New Encyclopaedia Britannica.** 32v. 15th ed. Robert McHenry, editor in chief. Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1995.

HISTORY: First published in 1768-71, *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica* is the oldest and largest encyclopedia in English. Published in the U.S. since 1900, the set adopted its three-part arrangement with the fifteenth edition in 1974: the *Micropaedia* with short articles for quick reference, the *Macropaedia* for in-depth treatment of broad topics, and the *Propaedia* or outline of knowledge. A two-volume index aids access.

SCOPE AND TREATMENT: *Britannica* is aimed at a more scholarly audience than any other general English-language encyclopedia. It is suitable for advanced high-school students, college students, and educated adults, although certain *Macropaedia* articles—particularly in the physical sciences, mathematics, and engineering—will not be

accessible to those without college-level training in those areas. This is also the least American of these encyclopedias, attempting to appeal to an international audience; as a result what Americans call soccer is under *Association Football*. Among the 33 new contributors to the set this year are *New York Times* science writer James Gleick (*Feynman, Richard*) and Northwestern University marketing professor Philip Kotler (*Marketing and Merchandising* [in part]).

QUALITY AND CURRENCY: The 1995 *Micropaedia* contains 139 new articles, 30 of them biographies of such people as Bill Gates, Magic Johnson, and Michael Jordan. Other new entries include *Central Asia*, *Internet*, *Supergravity*, and *Tongue Twister*. About 885 articles were revised. Some, such as *Chiapas*, *Rwanda*, and *Evers*, *Medgar*, were updated to reflect events of the previous year. Others were revised to achieve greater clarity or to change the emphasis (as in the revision of *Sterne*, *Laurence*, which gives more emphasis to a critical appraisal of his works, and less to anecdotes about his life). The Summer and Winter Olympic Games table was updated, but not that for the World Cup or other tables in *Sporting Record*. The *Micropaedia* has 99 new photographs (65 in color) and 32 new or revised maps. Black-and-white illustrations still predominate throughout the set. Only about 3 percent of the *Micropaedia* articles have bibliographies; 8 are new and 46 revised. With all this work, dated information still remains; the entry *Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad* does not mention that in 1986 that railroad was absorbed by the Soo Line. *Assault Weapons* fails to mention the debate that has raged over the regulation of these weapons in recent years in the U.S.

The 1995 *Macropaedia* has a total of 673 articles ranging from two to more than 300 pages, making some the length of a monograph. One article (*Chemical Bonding*) is completely new, 45 were revised substantially, and 199 revised in less significant ways. Five of these have completely new text: *Amphibians*, *Diagnosis and Therapeutics*, *Greece*, *Marketing and Merchandising*, and *Thermodynamics*. All are substantial overviews of their topics, and while some are bound to be challenging reading because of the nature of the topic, more care with editing could assist the reader. *Amphibians* introduces certain terms, such as *vomerine* and *hypaxial*, without definition, while



taking care to define more familiar words, such as *ventricle* and *nocturnal*. The text refers to a superorder Anthracosauria, which is not to be found in the accompanying taxonomic schedule. On the plus side, *Sex and Sexuality* now makes reference to AIDS, and *Encyclopaedias and Dictionaries* correctly notes *Academic American Encyclopedia's* availability online. The *Macropaedia* revision also includes 134 new photographs (95 in color), 185 new line drawings, and 53 maps. All *Macropaedia* articles have bibliographies. The one for *Growth and Development* still cites nothing later than the 1970s.

The *Britannica Book of the Year* is considered an integral part of the set and is included for first-time purchasers. The substantial appendix, "Britannica World Data," is a useful summary of comparative international statistics.

*Britannica's* complex arrangement into essentially two separate sets, plus the *Book of the Year*, makes it difficult for users to know where to go for the most current information. The *Israel* article in the *Macropaedia* mentions the Israeli withdrawal from Jericho, but not the corresponding *Micropaedia* article. The death of North Korean president Kim Il Sung, on the other hand, can be found in the *Micropaedia* but not the *Macropaedia*. For information on the *Endeavor* space shuttle mission, it is necessary to go to the *Book of the Year*. Nonetheless, no English-language encyclopedia can begin to match *Britannica* in scope and depth.

**ELECTRONIC VERSIONS:** *Britannica* is available in a CD version (see below) and by subscription as *Britannica Online* on the Internet (see below).

**CONCLUSION:** *Britannica* remains unmatched as a scholarly encyclopedia and should be in any library that needs the in-depth coverage it offers. It is particularly appropriate for academic and large public libraries but has a place in high-school and smaller public libraries as well.

**Britannica CD.** Version 2.0. Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1995.

**HISTORY:** *Britannica* was first released on one CD-ROM in a text-only version in 1994. It used the SmarTrieve search engine. The 1995 *Britannica CD* uses the Netscape browser for searching and displaying. It is available in Windows and Mac versions.

**SCOPE AND TREATMENT:** The CD contains the entire text of the 1995 print *Britannica*, or at least virtually so; the long *Micropaedia* article *Sporting Record*, which consists mainly of data in tabular form, is missing, as is most of the 1995 yearbook (purchasers of the CD receive a free copy of the current print yearbook). There are also 1,400 articles on the disc that are not in the print set. Certain details have been updated from the 1995 print set, for example, the 1994 death date of Elias Canetti. Unlike the 1994 CD, some graphics are present, though far fewer than in the print set. These seem to be mostly maps, charts, and line diagrams, though the flags of all the nations and the states of the U.S. are represented in full color. Maps are not very detailed; the one of Alabama notes 10 cities.

**DATABASE STRUCTURE:** The Netscape interface allows for a variety of searches. Users can enter inquiries in natural language, which are processed as a WAIS search, or they can do a traditional Boolean search. In either case the user can choose to search the entire text, the *Britannica* index, or the *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary*. Users may need to try a variety of approaches, especially since WAIS searches of the entire text may prove taxing for computers of limited resources. Natural-language WAIS searches can result in a large number of false hits. When "What does the flag of Benin look like?" was entered, the words *look* and *like* were processed as significant words, resulting in a set of articles using the phrase *look like. Flag AND Benin*, or the simple phrase search *Benin's flag* (also treated as a WAIS search) worked much better.

Searching the index rather than the full text can produce a more focused search—if the user's terms match the terms used in the index. On the other hand, a full-text phrase search on *government regulations* readily produced several highly relevant documents, but one really had to hunt to find relevant documents when the same search was repeated against the index, since all index terms under *government* were retrieved. Buttons allow the user to "expand your search" and display more than the default number of documents, or (in the case of WAIS searches) to "restrict your search" and display only documents containing all search terms. Terms can be cut and pasted into the search box and looked up in the dictionary, an



attractive option given the level of *Britannica's* vocabulary.

Users can set a variety of display parameters, including the number of retrieved documents to be displayed and the number to be displayed with the initial portion of the text. Longer articles (particularly from the *Macropaedia*) are broken into segments, with previous section and next section buttons allowing easy access to the full article; another button allows the table of contents to be displayed and used as a navigation tool for those articles having such a feature. Cross-references from the print set display as hypertext links, and there are links to relevant sections of the *Propaedia*, which can be used as an additional navigation tool. However, there are some problems in the way articles have been linked to *Propaedia* categories: what are Umberto Giordano and Franz Lehar doing under "Music of Islamic Peoples?"

The user also has the option to display index links, allowing hypertext access to the *Britannica* index. The Find feature can be used to search for a particular search string within a current document; this is particularly useful if the user has traveled by various links from the document in the original search set, so that search terms are no longer highlighted. These various features do help to compensate for the difficulty sometimes experienced in performing keyword searches on such a large database. Articles can be printed and downloaded easily using Netscape pull-down menus, an improvement over earlier versions. The help screens are attractive and well written.

An installation video explains how to install the security "hardware key" that must be attached to the computer's parallel port for the system to run. There is also an attractive user's manual. The one requirement that may prove difficult is the 15MB permanent Windows swap file recommended for optimal performance. The first workstation we tried refused to allow a permanent swap file of this size, and the disc was ultimately evaluated on a Windows 95 workstation, on which it ran very well.

CONCLUSION: *Britannica CD 2.0* offers improved functionality over the 1.0 version released last year. A variety of ways have been provided to search a rich database, and the product should be an attractive acquisition for any library where the print set is in use.

**Britannica Online.** Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1994—. Annual subscription. Single-campus colleges and universities: 5,000 or fewer FTE students, \$5,000; 5,001–35,000 FTEs, \$1 per FTE; 35,001 FTEs, \$35,000. K-12 schools: single user access, \$695; multi-user access based on enrollment: 1,000 or fewer students, \$895; 1,001–1,500, \$1,295; 1,501–2,000, \$1,645; 2,001–2,500, \$1,195. Consumer price: \$150 plus a \$25 one-time registration fee. Inquire for prices for public libraries and for business use.

Encyclopaedia Britannica is again carving a new path of electronic access, this time via the World Wide Web on the Internet. Although other encyclopedias such as *Academic American* and *Compton's* have been available online for some time through services such as CompuServe (even *Britannica* had a brief fling in the early 1980s on Mead Data Central), *Britannica Online (BOL)* marks the first appearance of a major multivolume encyclopedia available through the Internet. *BOL's* more than 44 million words dwarf the other online encyclopedias, which have 9–10 million words. The product also breaks new ground by providing cross-references from the encyclopedia to other Internet resources. Britannica plans to update the database quarterly.

System requirements for running *BOL* include a dedicated Internet connection with some version of the World Wide Web browser Mosaic running. It will also run on a SLIP or PPP connection (albeit more slowly). Britannica recommends several packages in an on-screen help file. Among the NCSA Mosaic packages, Britannica lists WinMosaic version 2.07 alpha for 32-bit machines (version 2.02 alpha for 16-bit machines), Mosaic version 1.03 for Macintoshes, and Mosaic version 2.04 for XWindow systems. Britannica also lists other packages: MacWeb (for Macintoshes), Spy Air Mosaic or Spyglass Enhanced NCSA Mosaic (for Windows), and LYNX (for VT100 terminals).

Any user comfortable with basic Windows commands and a mouse will have little difficulty adapting to searching *BOL*. After accessing the system, the user sees the "home page," where various searches may be selected and where help screens can be accessed. The Frequently Asked Questions help screen claims there are "over 700,000 hypertext links" in the database. These links to other



screens are displayed in blue underlined type on the screen. Users may input searches in an Index search box or a Text search box. Either path will search the *Macropaedia*, the *Micropaedia*, and the *Book of the Year*. There are also options for browsing the *Book of the Year* separately and searching *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (10th ed.), *Nations of the World* (which provides access to the flag, map, 1993 events, and statistics of countries gleaned from *Britannica World Data Annual*), and the *Propaedia*. Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT, and ADJ) and truncation (\*) are allowed in either the Index or Text search.

The Index search, similar to a search in the printed index, searches index entries to retrieve a list of those likely to be of interest to the searcher. Like the Text search, the listing retrieved will be based on relevancy ranking. Unlike the Text search, however, the system will not automatically depluralize a word. Typing in *floods*, for example, retrieves no hits, whereas typing in *flood* or *flood\** will. All index entries retrieved are hot-linked to articles, so the full article is retrieved simply by clicking the mouse on the appropriate entry. There is, however, no navigation device so a user can go from entry to entry quickly—one must always press a “back arrow” icon on the screen to move back to the list of index entries.

The Text search allows one to type in single words or complex phrases (such as *America's first compact car*) or Boolean searches to search the full text of the encyclopedia. The user may set the maximum number of article matches desired as well as the number of matches that will display the first paragraph of the article to provide an idea of how relevant the hit is. The system lists articles based on relevance, with the article's length (in bytes) to give an idea how long retrieval may take. Obviously, using a Boolean operator such as ADJ (adjacency) provides more relevant hits than simply typing in a phrase. A Text search on *operation restore hope* retrieves several articles with any of those words in it (though the top few were indeed relevant hits). A Text search on *operation ADJ restore ADJ hope* retrieves but one hit. The system will automatically depluralize words, so that the search *novas AND astronomy* retrieves an article on Anders Celsius, who was a professor of astronomy

and wrote a work titled *Dissertation de Nova Methodo*. . . (It should be pointed out the software does allow for parenthetical Boolean searches: (*michelangelo* OR *raphael*) AND *painting*).

When articles are displayed, *BOL* will display a few screens of text that may be scrolled through. If the article is particularly long, however, an icon labeled Next Section appears that must be clicked with the mouse to move on. Bearing in mind that this is an online system, this can make viewing a very long article quite time-consuming. To help avoid this problem, users can click on a Table of Contents icon for *Macropaedia* articles; clicking on a part of the contents list takes you directly to that part of the article. Hot links to the index appear scattered throughout articles in the usual blue underlined type surrounded by brackets. On occasion, this appears quite odd. For example, a section of the article *History of Western Painting* begins: “During [*Index*] [*Index*] the Upper Paleolithic Period,” with the first link leading to the index entry for *Stone Age*, the second to the entry for *Paleolithic Period*. A nice touch is that the author's initials at the end of an article are hot-linked to the biographical information that appears on them in the *Propaedia*. In addition, articles have hot links to related topics listed in the *Propaedia*.

If the software used by the local system permits, articles may be printed out on a local printer by clicking a print icon in the program, or downloaded using the standard Windows menus. A downloaded file, however, is saved in HyperText Markup Language format (.HTML), which—though it can be read as ASCII text—has many special codes scattered throughout the text.

*BOL* currently includes 2,600 illustrations plus maps. For example, the periodic table of elements is shown in color. Clicking on any element leads to more information about that element. Links to illustrations within various articles are identified by bracketed, underlined blue type (such as [*Image*], [*Map*], or [*Table*]). These links open another window featuring .GIF-based illustrations. Maps and illustrations of flags that were retrieved were quite clear; the maps were more detailed than those in CD-ROM encyclopedias but not as detailed as those in the print set.

Links to related Internet resources are provided at the ends of several hundred articles. For example, clicking on “NASA Home



Page" at the end of the *National Aeronautics and Space Administration* article connects the user directly to that rich resource. Success in reaching these resources is dependent on the host computer that is running them. For example, if all the ports at NASA were busy, BOL would not be able to make a connection. There are 2,900 of these links at this writing; this is an area of the system that Britannica continues to develop.

The other major component of BOL—the dictionary—offers straightforward word lookup only. Unlike CD-ROM dictionaries, words within definitions are not hot-linked to each other nor can one jump from a word in the encyclopedia to the dictionary. The program also offers little help on misspellings. A user typing in *online* will retrieve no hits, as *Merriam-Webster's* has the word entered as *on-line*.

A potential headache for users will be BOL's use of British spelling (as in the parent work). BOL makes note of this in a special help file that lists British equivalents to American words, indicating that "we plan to add technology to the search engine that equates British and American spellings. In the meantime, if one cannot find the information desired, one may need to enter British equivalents." Indeed, a Text search on *encyclopedias* AND *cd-rom* retrieves 6 hits; a search on *encyclopaedias* AND *cd-rom* retrieves 10.

BOL's retrieval speed is very much dependent on the speed of one's hookup to the Internet. One can also never be certain that when retrieval time is slow which computer is at fault—one's host system or Britannica's. (Retrieval of illustrations seems to cause more crashes and/or system slowdowns than anything else.)

Still, any new system such as this is likely to experience some teething pains. Libraries with the proper facilities may find this a useful reference tool for their users. BOL is an easy-to-use system that bodes well for information delivered in this format. Using the encyclopedia to index relevant parts of the Internet is another innovative step by Britannica.

Internet users with the appropriate connection who would like to sample the product can do so at <http://www.eb.com>. They will be able to view the home page, try a demo, and get information on how to subscribe to *Britannica Online*.

**New Standard Encyclopedia.** 20v. Douglas W. Downey, editor in chief. Standard Educational Corp., 1995.

HISTORY: *New Standard* is now in its eighty-fifth year; Douglas W. Downey has been editor in chief for the last 30 of those years. This edition retains its intended audience of middle-school students to adults.

SCOPE AND TREATMENT: Articles are unsigned and are written by members of the editorial staff. They are submitted to expert consultants for authentication. Pronunciation is given for difficult words or names, and a pronunciation guide is at the front of each volume. There are nearly 17,500 articles, with more than 13,600 *see* references and 40,000 *see also* references. About 40 percent of the approximately 12,000 illustrations are in full color. The index contains approximately 104,000 entries, including references to bibliographies and illustrations. Also, there are special indexes included in such articles as *Astronomy*, *Dog*, and *Painting*.

QUALITY AND CURRENCY: This year there are 27 new articles, including *North American Free Trade Agreement*, *Sound Recording*, and *Virtual Reality*. Nine of the 27 are biographies of such people as Julio Cortazar, Pat Robertson, and Cy Young. Among the 19 rewritten articles are *Cell*, *Olympic Games*, *Sound*, and *Whale*. Text in *Olympic Games* mentions the scheduling change, with summer and winter games now occurring on four-year cycles two years apart, but a photo caption still refers to them occurring the same year. More than 1,100 articles had some revision. For example, all references to the European Community were changed to European Union. The deaths of Eugene Ionesco and Linus Pauling are noted. Two hundred bibliographies were updated with many works having copyrights from the 1990s; most note some books for young readers. Maps of Kyrgyzstan and the new South African provinces have been added; 59 maps were converted from two to three or four colors. Tables were updated to include such 1994 events as Stephen Breyer's appointment to the Supreme Court. Of the 289 new illustrations, 258 are full color. Some color photographs are poorly reproduced, for example, those in *Barbados* and *Bach*.

Many notable events of 1994 are noted, such as the election of Nelson Mandela, the rebellion and assassination in Mexico, and



the death of North Korean president Kim Il Sung (though not that country's agreement to nuclear site inspection), the violence in Rwanda, and the death of Richard Nixon. The article on Bill Clinton includes the 1994 congressional elections and the Whitewater investigation. The separate, brief article on Hillary Rodham Clinton mentions her work on health-care reform. Events not covered include the change in U.S. policy concerning Cuban immigration, the bombardment of Jupiter by a comet, and subsequent Hubble photographs (though the repair of the Hubble is mentioned in the article *Space Exploration*).

Several articles need updating to include current information. Information on VCRs (found under *Tape Recorder*) includes Beta with no mention of its obsolescence in the U.S. *Computer* talks about telecommunications, LANs, graphical user interfaces, and Prodigy but does not mention the Internet, nor is it in the index. Most entries in *New Standard* are very brief, but six pages are still devoted to *Typewriter*. *New Standard* still uses the word *oriental* (*Oriental Art*, *Oriental Philosophy*) where *Asian* would be more appropriate.

CONCLUSION: *New Standard Encyclopedia* provides basic information for public or school library collections. Middle-school and high-school students and adults seeking factual data will find this a useful resource.

**The World Book Encyclopedia.** 22v. Ed. by Dale W. Jacobs. World Book, 1995.

HISTORY: Published since 1917, *World Book* provides information, "in the most accessible form possible for homes, schools and libraries." Although designed especially for elementary- and secondary-school students, adults also find it useful. Reference librarians rely on it for quick answers to a wide variety of questions.

SCOPE AND TREATMENT: One of *World Book's* major strengths is its accessibility to users at all levels. Another is its excellent layout and visual presentation. Approximately one-third of the space is devoted to 28,000 illustrations, including maps, photographs, time lines, diagrams, graphs, and art. Eighty percent are in color. More than 3,700 scholars and specialists served as authors, authenticators,

reviewers, and consultants for this edition. Among the 111 new contributors this year are Robert F. Weaver of the University of Kansas and Philip W. Hedrick of the University of Arizona (*Heredity*), William Ivey of the Country Music Federation (*Country Music*), and Elliott A. Norse of the Center for Marine Conservation (*Biodiversity*). Each year there is a special feature in the encyclopedia set. This year's is *Canada: The Growth of a Nation*, an illustrated overview of Canadian history.

Volume 22, the *Research Guide and Index*, has more than 150,000 entries and 200 reading and study guides, which suggest paper topics and provide bibliographies. It also contains brief articles on writing papers, giving oral presentations, and doing research. The index provides access to illustrations, maps, overlays, and study guides. More than 60,000 *see* and *see also* references within the text make it easy for unsophisticated users to locate material without the index.

QUALITY AND CURRENCY: *World Book* does an excellent job of staying up-to-date. Of the more than 17,000 articles in the 1995 edition, 134 are new, 261 have been extensively revised, and more than 2,000 were partially revised. More than 300 bibliographies have been updated, in addition to those in the revised articles. Among the new articles in this edition are *Alternative Medicine* (written by Andrew Weil), *Camcorder*, *Hate Crime*, *Information Science*, and *Panic Disorder*. New biographies treat Stephen Breyer, Newt Gingrich, Bill Gates, and Rigoberta Menchu. The deaths of Richard Nixon, Ralph Ellison, and Jan Tinbergen are noted. Extensively revised articles include those on *Asian Americans*, *Environmental Pollution*, and *Pioneer Life in America*. The extensively revised entry *Indian, American* has a new sidebar discussing the use of various names for this group. More than 90 new maps and 430 new illustrations have been added. All statistics are current. Population figures include the latest available census figures, current estimates, and five-year projections. Awards lists and economic indicators are all up-to-date. The *Baseball* article talks about the strike and the cancellation of the 1994 World Series. *Soccer* notes that the World Cup was held in the U.S. Recent events, such as Nelson Mandela's election in South Africa, the sending of U.S. troops to Haiti and the



return of President Aristide, the Jordan-Israel peace accord, and the conviction of Byron De La Beckwith for the murder of Medgar Evers, are covered. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis has no entry of her own. She is mentioned only in the articles about her husbands and in *Life in the White House*. Her death date is noted.

ELECTRONIC VERSIONS: *The World Book Multimedia Encyclopedia* (Macintosh and Windows versions) and *The World Book Information Finder* (DOS text-only version) contain the full text of the encyclopedia and the *World Book Dictionary* (see below).

CONCLUSION: *The World Book Encyclopedia* is an outstanding, beautifully illustrated current general reference source for all age levels.

**The World Book Multimedia Encyclopedia.** World Book, 1995.

HISTORY: *The World Book Information Finder* was first released in 1990 and is still available in a text-only DOS version. Illustrations were added last year to the Mac and Windows versions, and this year the title was changed to reflect the fact that audio and video segments have been added as well. The multimedia version was used for this review.

SCOPE AND TREATMENT: The CD-ROM contains the complete text and index of the 1995 encyclopedia as well as all 225,000 entries from the *World Book Dictionary*. In addition, the CD-ROM has 5,000 illustrations (compared with 3,000 last year), 265 maps, 23 animations, 15 video clips, and 80 audio clips. New graphics include country, state, and Canadian provincial flags. All of the maps, charts, and tables and most of the illustrations can be printed. All the buttons on the *World Book* screen are large and labeled, making it less confusing to use than some CD-ROM encyclopedias. A detailed manual accompanies the disc, and there is a toll-free number for technical support.

DATABASE STRUCTURE: *The World Book Multimedia Encyclopedia* is easy to use. One can search by topic, employing the *World Book* index headings, or by keyword. Keyword searches allow the use of Boolean and proximity operators. Once an entry appears on the screen, the left side displays an outline and previews illustrations or

charts. The right side shows the text with the search terms highlighted. Highlighting any part of the outline will move the text to that specific section. Clicking on any word in an article will open the dictionary and display the definition. When cross-references appear in an article, users may click on them to go directly to related material.

*World Book* has several useful features. Clicking on the atlas icon will reveal a world map. One can also search the map list alphabetically. Maps here are relatively detailed; there are 37 cities on the map of Alabama. The time line feature lets users move through history from 570,000,000 B.C. to the present. Clicking on a time period will produce an article about that era. The InfoTree function searches through topics and articles by subject area. The Gallery gives access to all the videos, animation, sounds, illustrations, and photographs on the disc. These include anatomical diagrams and film clips of historical events such as the fall of the Berlin Wall. While the anatomical diagrams here are as good as in other CD-ROM encyclopedias and the ability to jump to illustrations of related body systems is very useful, the animated drawings in the *Mayo Clinic Family Health Book* CD-ROM are superior. The audio reproduction of music and animal sounds is very good.

CONCLUSION: *The World Book Multimedia Encyclopedia* is an excellent source of current information suitable for home and school use. While it provides fewer ways to browse than the CD-ROMs sold in retail stores, it is a first-rate reference tool.



CD-ROM Summary Chart, 1995

CD-ROM	Print Title	System	Price*	Online
Britannica CD	New Encyclopaedia Britannica	Windows Macintosh	\$995	Internet
Collier's			TBA	NA
Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia	Compton's Encyclopedia	Windows Macintosh	\$69.95 \$20 rebate	America Online Prodigy
Encarta	Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia	Windows Macintosh	\$79.95 \$45 rebate for previous users	Microsoft Network
Encyclopedia Americana	Encyclopedia Americana	DOS Windows Macintosh	\$595	NA
The New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia	Academic American Encyclopedia	DOS Windows Macintosh	\$75	Dow Jones Compuserve Genie
The World Book Multimedia Encyclopedia	The World Book Encyclopedia	DOS Windows Macintosh	\$179 (\$99 with purchase of print set; upgrade \$79)	NA

*\*Prices here are list prices. Some of these CD-ROMS are sold in retail stores and prices may vary.*

Encyclopedia Summary Chart, 1995

Encyclopedia	Approximate entries	Pages	Approximate illustrations	School & Library Price, 1995*
Academic American Encyclopedia (21v.)	29,025	9,920	17,025	\$798
Collier's Encyclopedia (24v.)	23,000	19,900	14,450	\$1,049
	5,274 29,873 (Fact-Index)	10,732	22,510	\$395
Compton's Encyclopedia (26v.)				
Encyclopedia Americana (30v.)	45,000	26,740	23,000	\$899
The New Book of Knowledge (21v.)	9,132	10,576	25,200	\$758
The New Encyclopedia Britannica (32v.)	65,000	32,000	23,800	\$1,299
New Standard Encyclopedia (20v.)	17,491	10,926	12,000	\$549.95
The World Book Encyclopedia (22v.)	17,000	14,124	28,000	\$559

*\*Prices exclude shipping and handling costs.*

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Text designed by Marcia Lange and Ben Segedin  
Cover designed by Stuart Whitwell

Text printed on 50lb Finch Opaque White  
and bound in 10-point cover stock  
by IPC Publishing Services



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*Reference Books Bulletin, 1994-1995*

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\$26.00 pbk. 180p. 0-8389-7816-9 1995

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